

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

What the invention claimed is:

1-18. (cancelled)

19. (currently amended) ~~An expanded~~ PTFE article having a consistently repeated pore configuration, said configuration created by forming a mixture of a first resin and a second resin having a different expandability characteristic than said first resin, and then expanding said mixture, said article comprising:

a first plurality of fibrils interconnecting a first node with a second node, said first plurality of fibrils defining a first group of ~~large~~ pores therebetween, said first group of pores falling substantially within a first size range;

a third node which is substantially smaller than said first and second nodes;

a second plurality of fibrils attaching said third node between said first and second nodes, said second plurality of fibrils defining therebetween a second group of smaller pores which fall substantially within a second size range;

said first and second size ranges being identifiably distinct ~~small~~ pores; and

said second plurality of fibrils being substantially shorter than said first plurality of fibrils.

20. (previously presented)The article of claim 19 wherein said first and second nodes are elongated and substantially parallel one to the other.

21. (previously presented)The article of claim 19 wherein the article is tubular.

22. (previously presented)The article of claim 21 wherein the article is reinforced by a helical member which is disposed on the outside surfaces of the article.

23. (previously presented)The article of claim 22 wherein said helical member is constructed of FEP.

24. (currently amended) The article of claim 19 wherein said first size range ~~the small pores are~~ is from about 2 to 15 microns and said second range is from ~~the large pores are in the range of~~ about 20 to 50 microns.

25. (currently amended) The article of claim 19 wherein said pores in said first size range ~~the small pores~~ are between 3 and 8 microns and said pores in said second range ~~the large pores~~ are between 25 and 40 microns.

26. (currently amended) The article of claim 19 wherein said pores in said first size range being ~~the small pores are~~ between 4 and 8 microns and said pores in said second size range being ~~the large pores are~~ between 25 and 40 microns.

27. (currently amended) The article of claim 19 wherein said pores in said first size range ~~the small pores~~ are about 5 microns and said pores in said second size range ~~the large pores~~ are about 30 microns.

28. (cancelled)

29. (cancelled)

30. (cancelled)

31. (cancelled)

32. (currently amended) An expanded PTFE article for use as a tubular medical implant comprising:

a first material mixed with a second material to comprise a compound, said second material being less expandable than said first material;

said compound being expanded to create a regularly repeated pore configuration;

said configuration comprising a first plurality of fibrils interconnecting a first node with a second node, said first plurality of fibrils defining a first plurality of ~~large~~ pores therebetween;

a third node which is substantially smaller than said first and second nodes;

a second plurality of fibrils attaching said third node between said first and second nodes, said second plurality of fibrils defining therebetween a second plurality of ~~small~~ pores, said second plurality of pores being discrete from and smaller than said first plurality of pores;

said second plurality of fibrils being substantially shorter than said first plurality of fibrils; and

said article being adapted for use in blood-contact applications.

33. (new) The article of claim 32 wherein said configuration is repeated throughout at least most of said article.

34. (new) The article of claim 19 wherein said pore configuration is repeated regularly throughout a substantial portion of said article.

35. (new) An expanded PTFE article for use as a medical implant comprising:

a pore configuration derived from expanding a mixture of a first material and a second material, said first and second materials having different expandability characteristics;

said configuration including an intermediate node which is interconnected between two transversely extending elongated nodes, said first group of pores being defined by a first group of fibrils which interconnect said intermediate node between said elongated fibrils;

said configuration also including a second group of pores which are larger than and surround said first group of pores, said second group of pores being defined by fibrils which bypass said intermediate node and directly connect said elongated nodes.

36. (new) The article of claim 35 wherein said pore configuration is repeated consistently throughout a substantial portion of the article.